

## REMARKS

Claims 24, 25, 28, 29, 31-33, and 44-46 are currently pending in this application. Claims 34 and 37-40 are cancelled. Claim 46 is amended. No new matter is presented. In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, Applicants request the allowance of claims 24, 25, 28, 29, 31-33, and 44-46.

Claims 34 and 37-40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Mourou (U.S. Patent No. 5,656,186). Claims 34 and 37-40 are cancelled. Therefore the rejection of claims 34 and 37-40 is moot.

Claims 41-43 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mourou. The Examiner states that Mourou teaches and/or suggests all the features recited in claims 41-43. Claims 41-43 are cancelled. Accordingly, the rejection of claims 41-43 is moot.

Based upon the above amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request the allowance of claims 24, 25, 28, 29, 31-33, and 44-46. Should the Examiner feel that a telephone conference with Applicant's attorney would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is urged to contact him at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

By: 

Gerald Kiel

Reg. No. 25, 116

April 18, 2006  
REED SMITH LLP  
599 Lexington Avenue  
New York, NY 10022  
GHK:BKS